

concerns about the piece of legislation Senator Chambers has indicated as such. Let me tell you what my understanding of the situation is as it exists now. I guess for the media that are covering this I think the message that ought to go back to the public is if you desire, and I expect this bill to be advanced and passed, if you desire not to donate your organs upon your death you need to indicate to your family and to your physician your desire not to do so. And, in fact, even if this bill is not advanced and passed you would need to do that at this present time. See, the present situation is if you go into the hospital and, heaven forbid, you end up dying, it is still the case now where you can have your family asked if you would be willing or if they would be willing to have your organs donated. It is just at this point that it isn't required that they ask. This bill makes it a requirement that the hospital will ask the family if they would be considerate enough to provide for that donation. Now, as we talked about, there are a number of provisions that do not...that take away the mandate, that did not force the hospital, the physician to do so, and that is a point of concern. So it doesn't require in every case that you be asked. In fact there is quite a bit of flexibility under the bill as now amended. But it does say that under certain circumstances you are expected, if you are a hospital or a physician, to make that request at least to offer the opportunity to donate. I think people out there across the state should not feel they are going to now be forced to donate against their will. If their will is not to donate, on the cards that you get, on your drivers license you can mark yes or no and you should do that, one way or the other. In addition, you should let your family and your physician know the situation. Now, Senator Hall asked a question about when you come into the hospital will you just sign a form and not know what you are doing. On page 19, excuse me, on page 2, line 19, the request is not required until the death of a patient. Senator Lynch made this point clear as well. We don't want a situation where you are asking for donations while a patient is in the process of dying, somebody who is ill who family members are concerned about, at that point to come forward and say, by the way, if they do die would you happen to be willing to donate? It would be incredibly insensitive. So what we are talking about here is that it would only be done upon the death of the patient. That is something I want to, for the record, make very clear. In addition, I think we've been very sensitive from the language of the bill, from the committee amendments, and from Senator Chambers' amendments, to the sensitivity of the issue. This is a very sensitive issue and it is very important